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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Joseph FERRANTE, et al.

Serial No.: 10/067,052

Filed: February 4, 2002

For: EXTERNAL FIXATION SYSTEM )

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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SEP 26 2002

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No. 39262/263783  
Date: September 16, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application prior to examination:

In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 1, 16, 17, 32, 40, 73, 75, 77, 96, and 97 as follows:

1. (Amended) An external fixation component comprising:
- (a) a first capture member adapted to capture a first element of an orthopedic fixation system; and
  - (b) a second capture member adapted to capture a second element of an orthopedic fixation system and coupled to the first capture member such that the coupling allows the first capture member and the second capture member to rotate about three axes relative to each other;
- wherein the coupling is adapted to secure the first and second capture members from rotation with a single activation;

09/25/2002 WABDELRI 00000004 10067052

252.00 OR  
234.00 OP

01 FC:102  
02 FC:103